

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Kobayashi *et al.* (US 6,562,219).

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(c) as allegedly being anticipated by Pan *et al.* (US 2005/0054202).

Applicants respectfully traverse the § 102 rejections with the following arguments.

10/709,562

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35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Kobayashi *et al.* (US 6,562,219).

Regarding claim 1, Applicants respectfully contend that Kobayashi does not anticipate claim 1, because Kobayashi does not teach each and every feature of claim 1. For example, Kobayashi does not teach “determining a water condensation temperature of an ambient environment surrounding the deposition tool” of claim 1.

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully maintain that Kobayashi does not anticipate claim 1, and that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Regarding claims 2-7, since claims 2-7 depend from claim 1, Applicants contend that claims 2-7 are likewise in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Pan *et al.* (US 2005/0054202).

Regarding claim 1, Applicants respectfully contend that Pan does not anticipate claim 1, because Pan does not teach each and every feature of claim 1. For example, Pan does not teach “determining a water condensation temperature of an ambient environment surrounding the deposition tool” of claim 1.

Moreover, Pan does not teach “**after said depositing and said determining are performed, raising the temperature of the seed layer above the water condensation temperature**” of claim 1 (bold emphasis added). More specifically, although Pan teaches a DEGAS/baking process (paragraphs 0020-0023), Kobayashi teaches that this DEGAS/baking process is performed **before** the formation of the copper seed layer 26 (FIG. 1C and flow chart of FIG. 3). As a result, this

DEGAS/baking process cannot be used to teach the step of raising the temperature of the seed layer of claim 1, which is performed after the deposition of the seed layer.

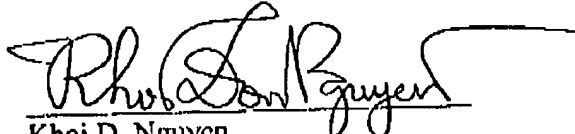
Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully maintain that Pan does not anticipate claim 1, and that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Regarding claims 3-10, since claims 3-10 depend from claim 1, Applicants contend that claims 3-10 are likewise in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully believe that all pending claims and the entire application meet the acceptance criteria for allowance and therefore request favorable action. If the Examiner believes that anything further would be helpful to place the application in better condition for allowance, Applicants invites the Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below. The Director is hereby authorized to charge and/or credit Deposit Account No. 09-0456.

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